



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

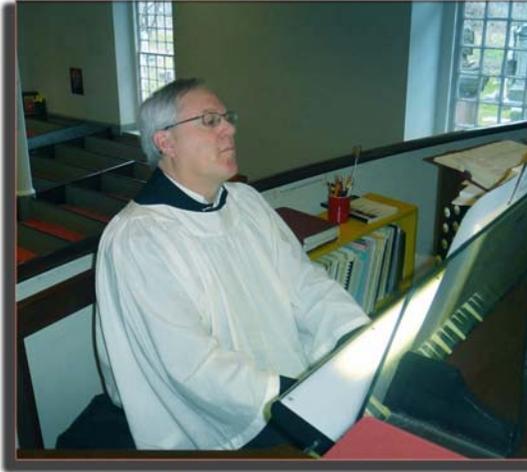
June 2013

ST. GEORGE'S DAY



Our Patronal Festival Day on Sunday, May 12th included one combined mass, Fr. Charles King concelebrant with rector Fr. Paul Blanch, lector Diane Reed, presentation of the Tartans with the St. Andrew's Society, and a Parade around the Stockade with the Schenectady Pipe Band, choir, clergy, acolytes and parishioners. Afterwards, a Georgian feast in the Great Hall. It's an annual event everyone looks forward to!

SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS



substitute organist



choir member



vestry member

Jeff Wengrovius and wife Barb (“cradle Episcopalians” from Colorado Springs) met at a church youth group. “My father, senior vestryman at the Chapel of Our Savior, inspired my two older brothers to become priests.” Music inspired Jeff....piano lessons as a child; organ lessons during college; organist for two years at St. Martha’s Church in Manitou Springs, a little community near Pikes Peak.

Hired by GE in 1981, Jeff relocated to Schenectady. His family became Georgians in 1985....daughter Erin and son Sam as Acolytes, Barb in Christian Education, and Jeff *naturally* gravitated toward music. Kathleen Slezak, then choir director, encouraged him to join the choir (even though he never trained as a singer) which evolved into substitute organist.

Our “go to” volunteer organist since 1988, Jeff explained, “I donate my time and talent to save money. It doesn’t make sense for my church to pay me for a talent that I have.” He joined the choir (tenor) as a volunteer when most were paid semiprofessionals. His joy today is that the St. Cecilia Choir is now mainly a volunteer group of dedicated parishioners....with Andrew doing an outstanding job as music director.

Recently re-elected to Vestry after a decade off, he was a member of Fr. Vang’s Associate Vestry before serving two full regular Vestry terms. “I’m concerned about the future of St. George’s and want to make sure there’s a healthy balance,” he said. Disliking church politics and church/diocesan politics in particular, he prefers a middle ground of not being too liberal nor too conservative; said everyone should feel comfortable, including families; and thinks both Rite I and II liturgies “....have a place in church.”

A Ph.D. Chemist for Momentive Performance Materials, Jeff’s traveled to 26 + countries for work. He’s the choir clown and a **BIG** worry wart....”I’m Type A, everything has to be perfect.” A golf/tennis player/spectator, he’s also gardener, antique collector, real estate investor with two homes on Nantucket. Rarely nervous about a work assignment, he’s always nervous before an organ gig at church.

Dedicated to St. George’s, he vows to spend even more time volunteering after he retires....which is just a few years down the road.

lynn paska

SPRING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Striving to remain a blessing to the community, St. George's partnered with SICM and Bethesda House this spring on Outreach related projects.

During Lent, Georgians were asked to complete hygiene kits for Bethesda House. These basic necessity items are given to meet the needs of Bethesda House guests. Hoping to achieve a 40 kit goal, one for each day of Lent, it was gratifying and indicative of Georgians' ongoing generosity, that 40 kits were happily received by Bethesda House just after Easter Sunday.

Much of St. George's spring outreach activity revolved around Schenectady Inner Cities Ministry, or SICM. Our parish has chosen Devon Dare to be its representative in the SICM summer intern program. Devon has just completed her freshman year at Loyola University in Maryland with a declared psychology major. She is intrigued with the non-profit style work experience that the SICM internship presents and looks forward to helping with SICM's summer lunch program and in other ways SICM serves the community.



One of SICM's springtime activities is to coordinate the Church World Services annual CROP Walk. On a beautiful May 5th Sunday afternoon, Georgians Wendy, Tom and Timmy Madelone, Nancy and Johnnie Angus, Judy DeLong, and Alice Polumbo embarked on the 5K course that helps eradicate hunger both around the world and here at home. Our parish collected \$170 in support of our walkers.

As summer approaches, SICM related initiatives will be a warm weather focus. St. George's has accepted a one week assignment to serve lunch at Wallingford Park, August 12 to 16, as part of summer lunch.

In a lighthearted way to increase our somewhat flagging support of SICM's food pantry, we're asking ALL Georgians throughout the summer to donate items to the SICM food pantry basket located in the Great Hall foyer from their favorite place to shop. Just after Labor day, we'll note the totals each area grocery store receives and where Georgians most like to shop.



VS



VS



alice polumbo

THE RECTOR WRITES

“Change is Inevitable; Happiness is Optional.” There is a great deal of truth in that. Change happens. Everything seems to change. King Saul, the first king of Israel, was changed dramatically when Samuel sent him to Gibeah, a small village near Bethel. As Samuel described it, the Spirit of God came upon Saul...changing him into a different person. Yet just think for a moment, what change was more dramatic than that which the New Testament Saul experienced on his way to Damascus? He was still making murderous threats against the Lord’s people when a flashing light from heaven interrupted his journey, and Jesus personally interceded, filling him with the Holy Spirit. Paul, as he then became known, spent the rest of his life devoted to God’s work.



Change is everywhere in the Scriptures. Change, in fact, is essentially the theme of the Bible. God was forever trying to get His people to change. Change from the sinful ways of the world to the righteous ways of God. If the Bible had a subtitle, it would probably have the word “repent” in it. Repent (Metanoia) literally means change of direction. The world around us continues to change. Our families change. Our friends change. We change – we grow, we learn, we gain experience, we age, but we gain insight, and maybe even a little wisdom along the way.

Even the way change happens in our high-tech world is changing. The old saying is as true now as ever: The only constant is change itself. Change is hard. It’s hard for us as individuals. It’s hard for families. It’s hard for organizations. It’s hard for churches – perhaps especially so. But change keeps on coming at us. So the question isn’t whether things change. The question is...how we handle it.

Are we going to fight it, resist it? Are we going to let it put us into a tailspin? Or are we going to embrace it...use it...adapt ourselves to what’s happening and make the best of things? That’s easily answered, of course, but not easily done. Elizabeth Lesser who is the co-founder and senior adviser of the Omega Institute, the largest adult education center in the United States focusing on health, wellness, spirituality and creativity states *“Life is always changing; we are always changing. We live in a river of change, and a river of change lives within us. Every day we’re given a choice: We can relax and float in the direction that the water flows, or we can swim hard against it. If we go with the river, the energy of a thousand mountain streams will be with us, filling our hearts with courage and enthusiasm. If we resist the river, we will feel rankled and tired as we tread water, stuck in the same place”*.

Change is harder for some than for others. Gil Rendle, a nationally known consultant with the Alban Institute in Washington DC, and the author of several books on the subject, explains why change can be particularly disruptive in a church. Over the years, he has codified what he calls the “Laws of Change” (in a church):

1. When we don’t know what to do, we do what we know.
2. Whenever things are changed, they then tend to change back to the way things originally were.
3. We give authority to our leaders only to the point of our discomfort.
4. To make changes successfully, somebody has to be uncomfortable.
5. When we don’t know why things are going wrong, we blame the pastor.

Most churches, ours included, have members that differ in significant ways. On the one hand, for example, we have what may be referred to as “the old guard.” And on the other, we have the newer generation, sometimes referred to as the “consumer generation.” The old guard typically has a strong sense of place and accepts the wisdom of deferred pleasure, opting to save for the future.

The younger generation is not necessarily tied to place, often prefers local mission and is more likely to be geared toward consumerism. They like to spend. But when it comes to change, these two groups within the church are polar opposites. The old guard wants none of it. The consumer generation welcomes changes, sometimes even radical changes. So it can hardly come as a surprise that, as we see changes being made by the Rector or Vestry, we often complain, oppose the changes, even fight them.

How often have we allowed changes – both those we make ourselves and those that are forced on us by a changing world – to divide us and divert our attention away from what we’re supposed to be doing as a family of faith? Sometimes we’re blind-sided, but often we can see the issues of change coming down the road at us. At the moment, we have a bunch of them: How do we cope with a deficit budget and curb our spending, making cuts to the way we used to do things at St George’s. What’s the best use of our buildings, particularly Cranmer House? What is our responsibility toward the stewardship of our property and facilities? Should we follow the trend in the wider Episcopal Church and become a more Open and Affirming church?

Regardless of the decisions we make on these and other issues, some of us are going to be unhappy. But according to Rendle and Alban Institute, that’s okay. It’s normal; some people are always going to be unhappy in larger congregations. Trying to make everybody happy, he advises, is futile. He calls it the “Happiness Trap.” Congregational leaders are often tempted to “fix things” by changing something in response to complaints, and by doing so they hope to make everybody happy. But every such change is likely to spawn complaints from others who are unhappy with those changes. If we change the way we conduct our worship services in response to one complaint that will beget other complaints as surely as night follows the day. Rather than trying to fix things, Rendle suggests a healthier response. Rather than work toward happiness, he says, work toward faithfulness. That means going back to the core purposes and values of the church, and to base our decisions on what strengthens and supports those purposes and values. So as we deal with change, he advises congregations to focus on the basic issues:

- **Who are we and what are we called to be?**
- **What are we called to do at this point in the life of our church?**
- **What are the objectives and goals of our ministry?**
- **What are the appropriate strategies for reaching those goals and objectives?**
- **Finally, and this is very important, how will we measure our success in attaining them?**

In other words, then, he is telling us to shift the focus from problem-solving to carrying out our mission. Instead of trying to make ourselves a happy church, we should try to make ourselves a faith-filled church.

The mission of our church is to create a fellowship that celebrates and reflects the presence of Christ. Through worship and spiritual growth we will equip ourselves and go forth to share God’s love in word and deed within our community and throughout the world. That’s where we need to start whenever we face questions about how to deal with issues, and especially how to deal with change. If our answers support our mission, then we’re on the right track. If they don’t, we should take a very hard look at what we’re doing. And for sure, the responsibility is ours. It’s not good enough to sit back silently while others make decisions, and then criticize them because we don’t like what they decided. It’s all too easy to put the blame on somebody else.

It’s our church. We are the church. And it’s our responsibility. As always, it’s up to us to help ourselves. Dealing with change is no different. Change is indeed inevitable. But the happiness part is up to us.

Your friend and priest, Fr Paul

HOLY WEEK 2013



Ash Wednesday in mid-February? Lent certainly arrived early this year. As Fr. Paul explained, Lent isn't a time for depriving ourselves but rather a time to think about how we can grow in our relationship with God. Holy Week started with Palm Sunday's joyful procession, drum, trumpet, and singing congregation marching from the Great Hall through the church. Fr. Paul emphasized that only by participating in all of Holy Week could we understand the full wonder of Easter. For the first time Wednesday of Holy Week offered Tenebrae, a meditative service of Psalms chanted in a candlelit sanctuary. On Thursday we were reminded of Jesus' humanity with the Maundy, when Fr. Paul washed the feet of twelve people as Jesus washed the

feet of his apostles. Stripping the altar, keeping vigil, attending Good Friday Mass, all prepared us for rekindling the Holy Fire and celebrating Jesus' resurrection with bells and singing and a traditional Georgian feast. Easter Day was glorious with flowers, brass, organ, and Sidney Nicholson's *Missa Sancti Magni*. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

joan pearson



CHOIR NOTES 🎵

St. George's choir members traveled to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown, NJ in February for a choir festival with renowned organist/composer/conductor Bruce Neswick. Pictured (l-r) Bruce Neswick, Joan Pearson, Suzanne Hartz, Izzy Whitehead, Andrew Krystopolski, Rembert Herbert.

andrew krystopolski



Colors of the Liturgical Seasons

As we journeyed from Advent to Pentecost, we have touched upon all the seasons of the church year in only 6 months. Each liturgical season has its own distinct color and these are reflected in the colors we see around the church - in the priest's vestments, the altar frontal and sometimes even in the color of the candles. If you have wondered why there are so many colors and what they mean, this is for you.....



The Origin of Ecclesiastical Colors The use of color in the church as a link to its liturgical symbolism dates to early times. In the Roman Empire, white was most commonly used. The early church used the colors of the Jewish church – red, white and blue – and these were the usual colors through Europe until 200-300 years before the Reformation when the colors of Roman Catholicism began to prevail. In a time of limited literacy, the use of colors became a visual way for people to follow the progression of the church year.

The Jewish red, white and blue was used for the color of the British Union Jack. The American flag drew from that, albeit with a very different design. Color became a mark of distinction in dress and a sequence of vestment colors emerged to designate various feasts. The use of red is primitive (i.e., the color of blood) and survived until recent times as the normal color for altars and church hangings.

Today the Anglican (and Episcopal) church color sequence aligns with the Roman Catholic Church with only a few minor exceptions. The Byzantine rite of the Eastern Orthodox churches uses a different sequence of fewer colors.

- White** *Purity, joy and truth.* Used on any feast relating to Christ or the mysteries of the church. Used on Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension, Trinity and Masses of the Resurrection. Gold can always be substituted for white.
- Red** *Fire, blood, love, zeal.* Used on Palm Sunday and Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came in tongues of fire. Also used on feasts of martyrs, symbolizing blood shed for Christ.
- Green** *Hope, life, nature, living things.* Used in Epiphany and Pentecost. It can also be used on any day that is neither a feast nor a fast.
- Violet, Purple** *Penitence and expectation.* Used in penitential seasons, Advent and Lent, as we await the coming of the Lord in his birth (Advent) and his death and resurrection (Lent).
- Black** *Death, mourning, sorrow.* Used for Good Friday and for offices and Requiem Masses of the dead.
- Rose** *Penitence permeated with joy.* Used on 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) and 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday.)
- Blue** *Heavenly love and truth.* Sometimes used on feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary, although white is also used for that.



The red & gold chasuble from Watts & Co in London is a favorite for St. George's Day

The Colors of the Church Year:

- Advent** **Purple**, the royal color of the coming King, is used in expectation of the incarnation of Christ.
- Christmas** **White** is used, as a reference to the purity of the newborn Christ and to our light and joy in him.
- Epiphany** **White**, as for Christmas.
- Epiphanytide** **Green** is used for its symbolism of our growth in Christ.
- Ash Wednesday** **Purple** is used on this penitential first day of Lent.
- Lent** **Purple** is used as the stark color of repentance and solemnity.
- Palm Sunday** **Red** is used on this first day of Holy Week, as it suggests the deep color of blood.
- Holy Week** **Purple** may be used for Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week.
- Maundy Thursday** **White** is used on this institution of the Lord's Supper.
- Good Friday** **Black or Purple** is used in vestments, which are the only ornamentation remaining after the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday night.
- Easter Vigil** **White** is used as the color of joy in the Resurrection.
- Easter Day** **White or Gold** is used on this "queen of feasts," unique in the entire church year.
- Eastertide, Baptism** **White**, as for Easter.
- Pentecost** **Red** reminds us of the color of flame, as the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem.
- Trinity Sunday** **White** is used, the expression of joy in the mystery of the Triune God.
- Weeks of Pentecost** **Green** is used, during this long period of growth in the natural world, indicating our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.
- Christ the King** **White** is used on the final day of the church year, a festive color of light, joy, and the celebration of our Lord.

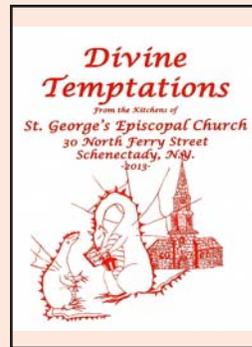


Green frontal for the long season of Pentecost

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Chef Kevin Grace outdid himself with a traditional corned beef & cabbage dinner! A 50/50 raffle was won by Pauline Holmes and a creme de menthe cheesecake donated by Judi Smith, won by Nancy Angus. St. George's and St. Paddy got together for an Irishfest proving that on March 17th everybody relates to the Emerald Isle.



Not a pastry shop but the title of our new St. George's cookbook, which will offer plenty of great foods before you get near the desserts. After keeping many contributions to a never-completed 1990 cookbook and collecting new, we have about 300 straightforward, enjoyable recipes for today's kitchens. This is not *Joy of Cooking* - for example, we've assumed that most of us use purchased pie crusts. On the other hand, many longer, traditional recipes made the book because we know how good they taste. We've added gluten-free commentary throughout, which makes ours unique among fund-raising cookbooks. Lynn Paska has obtained recipes from chefs at Glens Sanders, Turf Tavern, Dolce Vita, and Aperitivo. We're also thinking of ways to "preview" recipes, perhaps through Foyers gatherings.

Gerri Moore has designed the cover and section dividers with a wonderful dragon motif. We're very excited that each book will include a page with an access code, explaining how to download one copy to a Nook or Kindle (not Mac compatible.) The final price is \$20. Everything has been submitted to the publisher and we anticipate having the books this month, in plenty of time for the Stockade Art Show in September and *Divine Temptations* under every Christmas tree. Bon Appetit!

joan pearson

FOYERS DINNERS

"Getting to Know You" is the Foyers' *unofficial* theme song. It's all about good food and fellowship. Six groups (of



six to eight Georgians) have been scheduling their outings in Round #3. Groups #1 & #6 shared pictures of their 1st get-together. Thanks to Chris Henry....hard-working Foyers coordinator.

- WARDENS REPORTS -

We are off to a great start to this year, and halfway through we've accomplished more than we thought was possible. After only one year, our Organ Campaign and Steeple Fund are just dollars from completion. The fund-raisers have been great fun and the "grants" have been generous. Our Foyers groups are back in full swingthe fellowship has been fantastic. These are just a few things we've all come together to accomplish, making us a stronger parish to forge forward into the future. As the summer months come, don't forget the doors to St. George's Church are still open.



Have a great summer season! *best, chris*



New lights in the Church. Before, using 5820 watts.... now, using 1261 watts. *NICE SAVINGS.*

- TREASURER'S REPORT -



Congratulations, Georgians! A little over a year ago, we started raising funds to pay for organ work and extensive steeple repairs. The enthusiasm of the Organ Committee fueled a lot of great parties; all were financially successful. At this time, we have essentially raised enough money to repair the organ, with approximately \$39,000 at the end of April. The final push is coming from the Divine Temptations cookbook, which is due soon from the printer.

We are still collecting for our steeple and window painting fund. The windows were actually painted last fall, and we expect the steeple work to start in the near future. At the end of April, the fund contained \$31,550. During May, we learned that we qualify to receive a \$25,000 matching grant from Sacred Sites for the work on the steeple.

Thanks to all for the great work and support.

jonathan pearson iv



Niska Day Parade. Our float came in 1st, winning \$300. Thanks to all who helped.

rick forshaw

YOUTH NEWS

Every year, Colton Jacquith shaves his head to increase awareness for St. Baldrick's cancer charity, a nonprofit that funds cures for childhood cancer. Thanks to community sponsors and church support, Colton raised \$2,220 this year toward this very worthwhile venture.

IN MEMORIAM



*Alma King
1922-2013*



*Louise Waterman
1918 - 2013*



*Frances Spada
1920 - 2013*



*Helen Peterson
1917 - 2013*

VISITATIONS

(or, a funny thing happened on the way to pastoral care)

The mission of Pastoral Care is very important and all members of our committee approach our work with the dignity and reverence it deserves. However, real life can and does every once in a while throw us a curve ball or two. We get used to unexpected responses from those with hearing problems; being mistaken for a priest and being called father (one of the nicest things I've been called!); people falling asleep during our visit; and even pick-up attempts (ask Joan and Joyce.) One woman would let us know it was time to leave by announcing, "It was so nice of you to visit.." If we didn't take the hint, she would continue to repeat the phrase until we said good-bye.

Once after a nice visit at a local nursing facility, I began to administer Communion when suddenly the other woman in the room began yelling, "Oh, no, I'm not going to have to put up with this....." she proceeded to use language I had not heard since my fraternity days. I was shocked as was the parishioner I was visiting.. When the tirade stopped, we completed the service. As I was leaving, I turned to the roommate and, restrained by the fact that I was on a Pastoral Care visit (and moved by the Holy Spirit), I told her to have a nice day. This woman, who minutes earlier had uttered phrases that would have caused a Marine to blush, turned and with a big smile said ever so sweetly, "You, too, sir."

On another occasion after completing two visits on the second floor that was also the top floor, we entered the elevator. A resident pushed her walker in to join us. Joan asked, "Going down?" just to make sure that was what the lady wanted to do. She looked at Joan and said with conviction, "Oh no, I'm going up" Now that is faith!

MATTHEW FOX AT ST. GEORGE'S

Approximately 130 people attended the Matthew Fox lecture at St. George's on Saturday, April 30th and were treated to an opportunity to energize their mystical side by the most challenging religious spiritual leader (and, Episcopal priest) in America.



MEN'S ENSEMBLE AND SCHOLA CANTORUM

The St. Cecilia Choir is the backbone of choral music at St. George's, its four-part harmonies a musical foundation at Mass. In order to explore a wider range of vocal music Andrew has formed two smaller groups, one to bring us music written for men's voices and the other to perform polyphonic music for mixed voices. We heard the Men's Ensemble sing the beautiful Antonio Lotti Mass in December, one of the many settings composed specifically for bass, baritone, and tenor parts. This Ensemble, with Bob Paska, Gene DeLong, Jim Williams, Michael Shirk, Jeff Wengrovius, Sue Hartz, Rembert Herbert, Bob Moran, and Andrew Krystopolski, also sang at the Maundy Thursday service.

The Schola Cantorum learns polyphonic music, with intricate interweaving melodic lines, and practices extended service singing. They joined the New York Catholic Chorale at Evensong for the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and sang Tenebrae, a meditative service of chanted psalms and antiphons, on Wednesday of Holy Week. Members of Schola Cantorum are Louisa Carr, Julie Decker, Carole Ferrario, Chris Kleib, Joan Pearson, Jeff Wengrovius, Andrew Krystopolski, Rembert Herbert, Bob Moran, Michael Shirk, and Jim Williams.

andrew krystopolski, joan pearson

jim wingate



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The Georgian Report

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AROUND OUR CAMPUS

St. George's Annual Easter Egg Hunt took place between the 9 and 11:15 Masses on April 14th. Participants were: Ava, Trevor and Liam Weakley, Samantha Whiteman, and Isaac Furnish. Ava and Trevor won the Hallelujah and Golden eggs, respectively. Afterwards, the young Georgians gathered in the Great Hall to receive their prizes from Christian Education teachers Barb Wengrovius and Sandee Hughes, and aides Connie and Kathleen Todt.



Kali Rose Moran (pictured, with Fr. Paul) sang with the children's choir, then graduated to the adult choir while mentoring the children's choir. On Sunday, June 2nd we collaborated with the First Reformed Church choir at a vibrant Choral Evensong. St. George's choir director Andrew Krystopolski presented Kali, who will be starting college in the fall, with a parting gift from her fellow choristers.

The Shop has been renamed **BUY GEORGE**. Under new shop manager Jim Williams, it will be open every other weekend from Saturday, June 1st (10AM-3PM) and Sunday, June 2nd (11AM-3PM.) Local artisans will be featured selling jewelry and pottery. Other merchandise will include an affordable collection of consignment-type merchandise.

